Responsiveness Summary Related to Public Input Received on the Report Titled

"Relation Between Nitrate in Water Wells and Potential Sources in the Lower Yakima Valley, WA" Dated September 2012

March 2013

Prepared by:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10

1200 Sixth Avenue

Seattle, WA 98101

Table of Contents

I. Study Design (Questions #1-13)

- A. Study Purpose
- B. Groundwater flow direction
- C. Well construction information
- D. Residential well integrity
- E. Sampling design
- F. Number and frequency of sampling
- G. Soil samples
- H. Lagoon samples
- I. Historical data
- J. Sources of nitrate
- K. Manure and synthetic fertilizer
- L. Additional Investigations

II. General Analyses (Questions #14-18)

- A. Background
- B. Major ion and trace elements
- C. Isotopic analysis
- D. Age dating
- E. Fate and transport

III. Dairies (Questions #19-33)

- A. Lagoon leakage estimates
- B. Haak Dairy
- C. Dairy Cluster

IV. Irrigated Croplands (Question #34)

V. Septic Systems (Question #35)

VI. Quality Assurance and Quality Control (Questions #36-50)

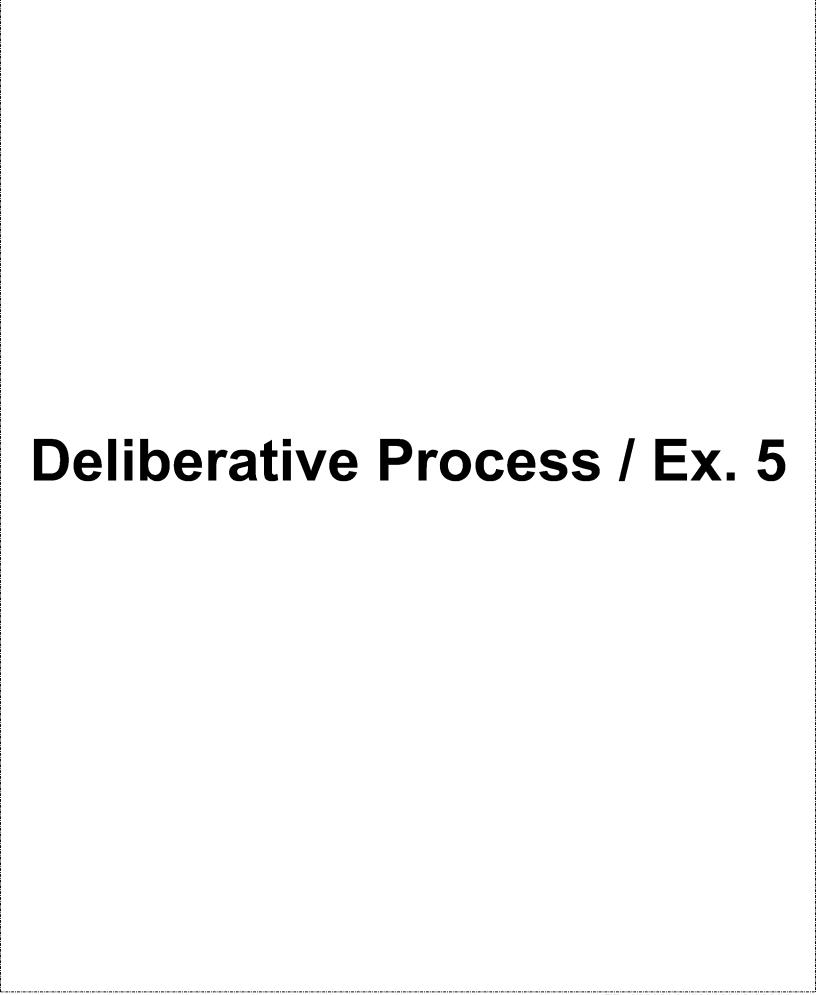
- A. Quality assurance project plan
- B. Quality control and data usability
- C. Specific compounds
- D. Peer review

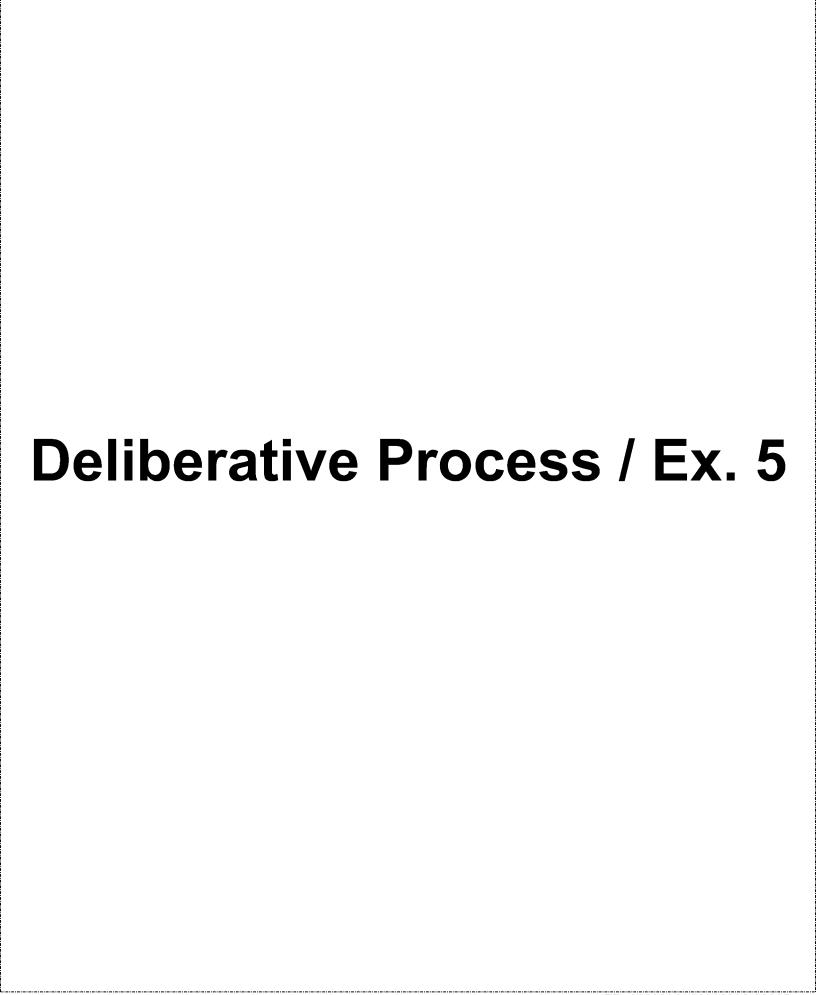
VII. Other (Questions #51-57)

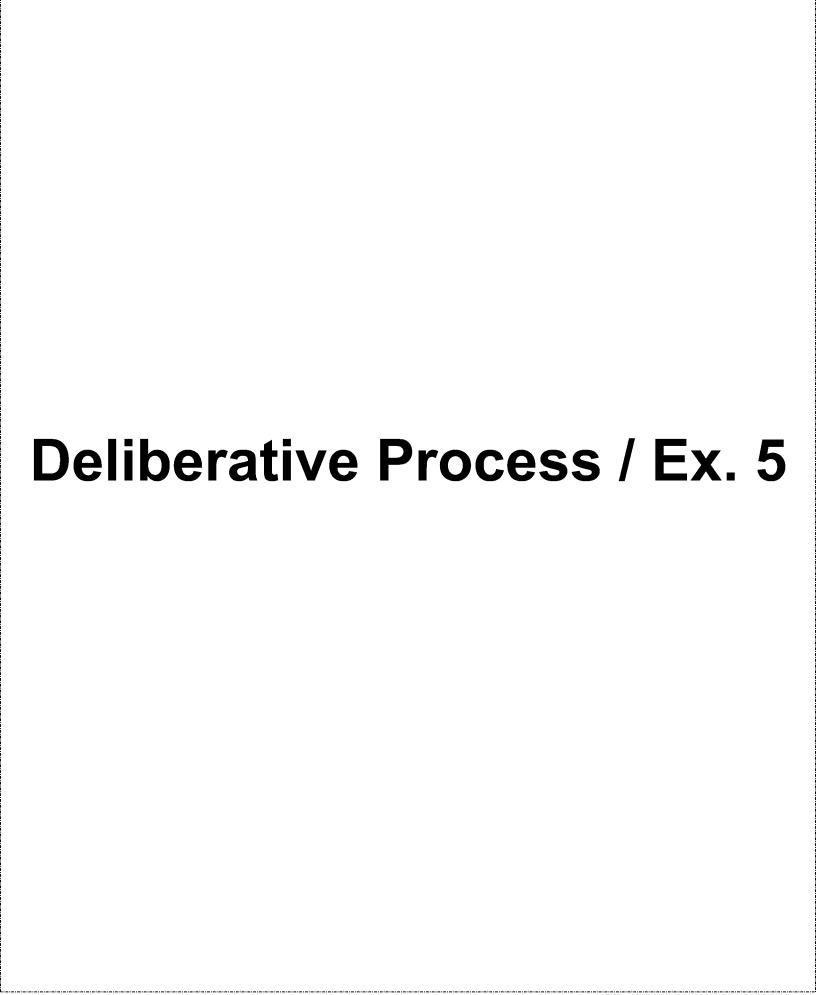
- A. Role of nutrient management plans
- B. Enforcement actions from report
- C. Legal authority
- D. Role of groundwater management area
- E. Extended time for public input
- F. Hold dairies accountable
- G. NRCS standards

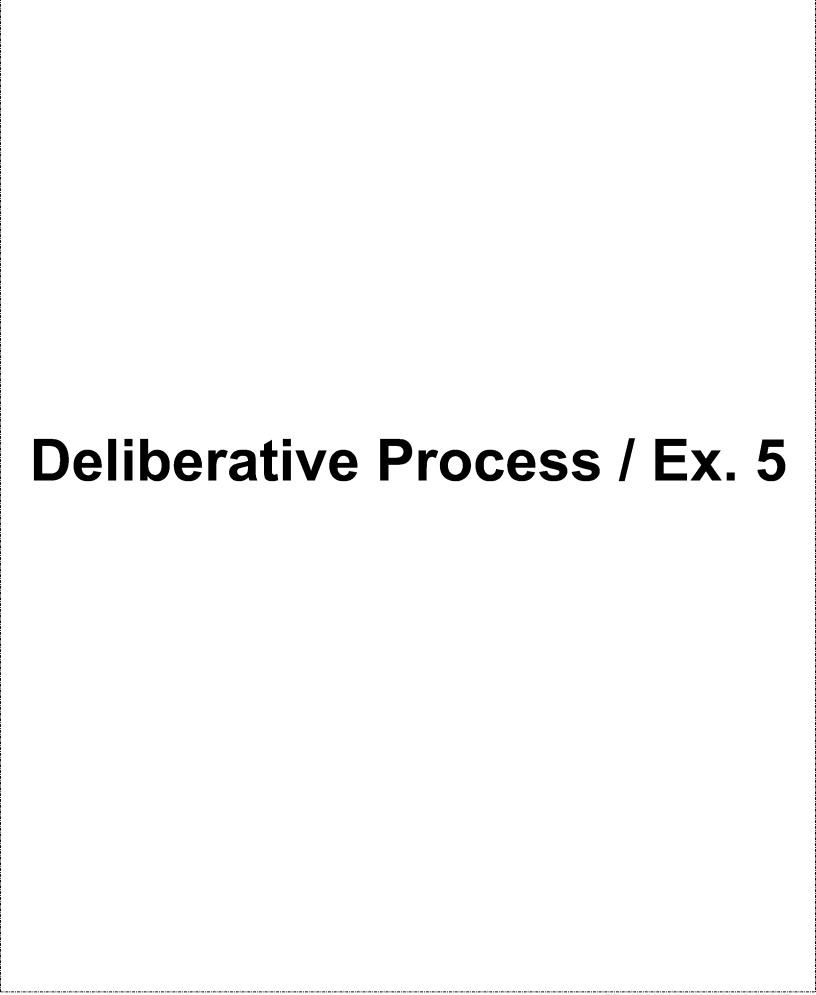
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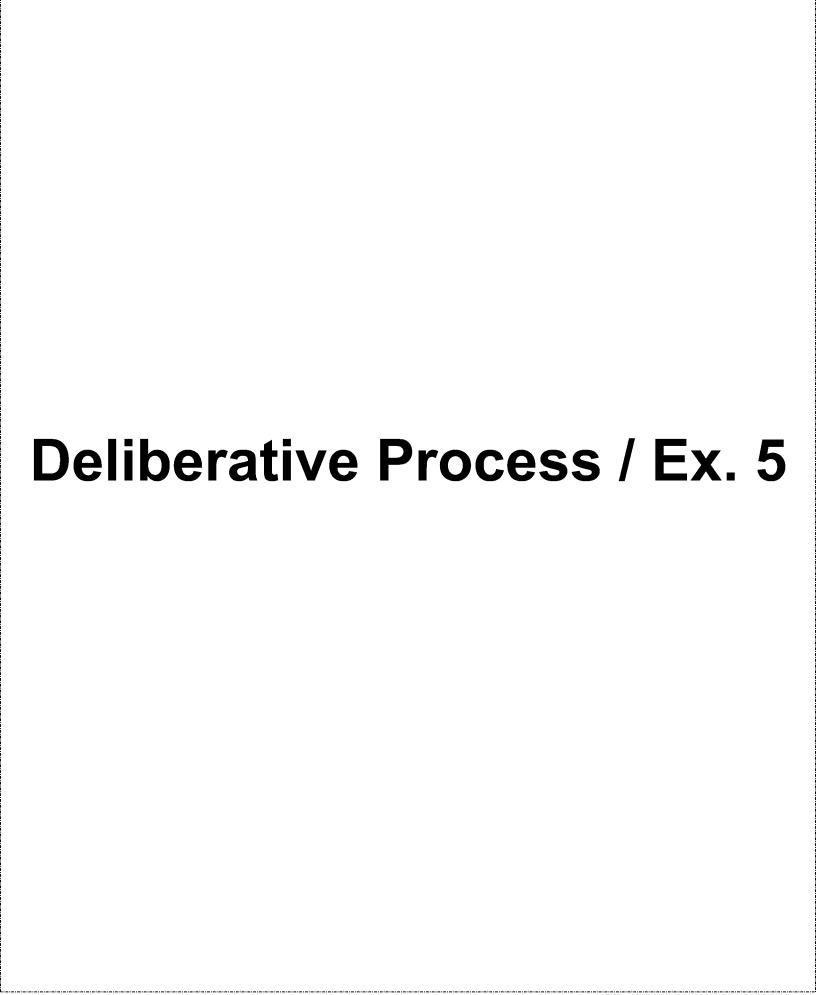
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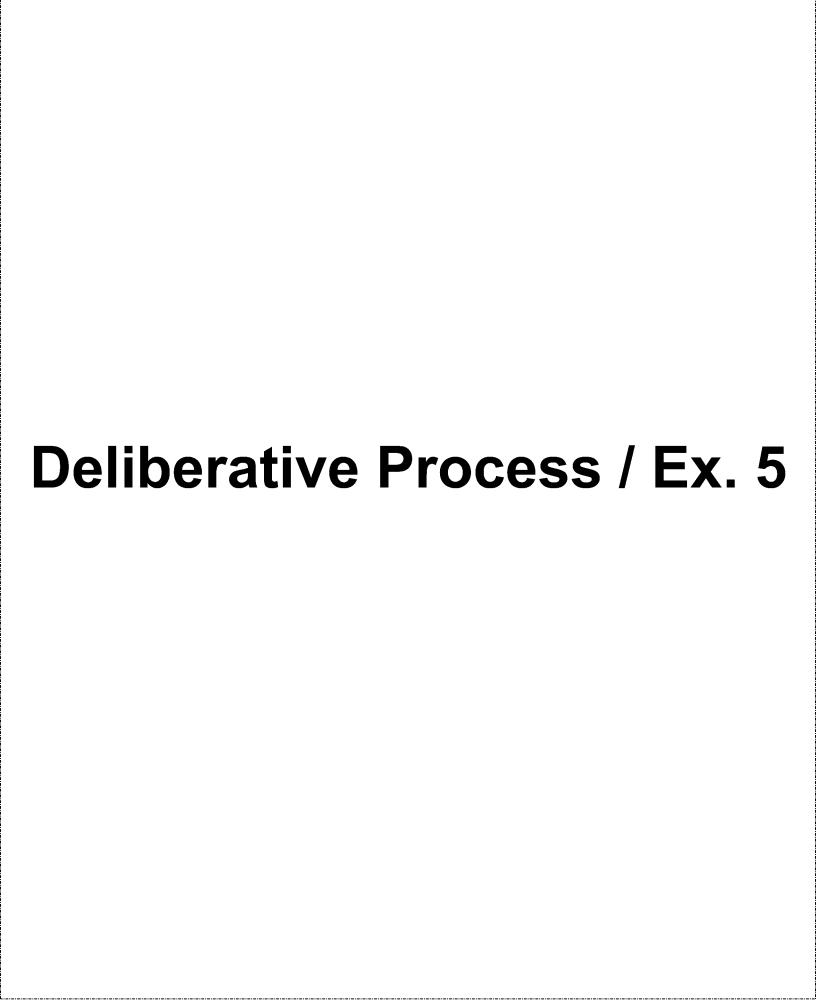


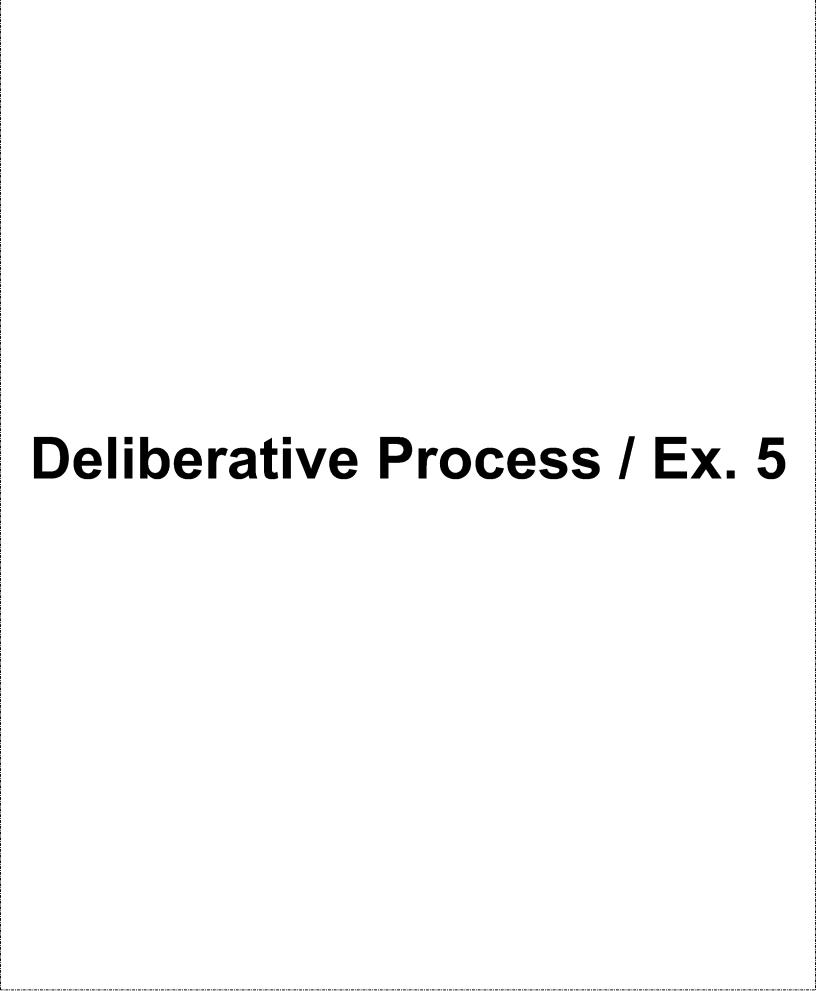


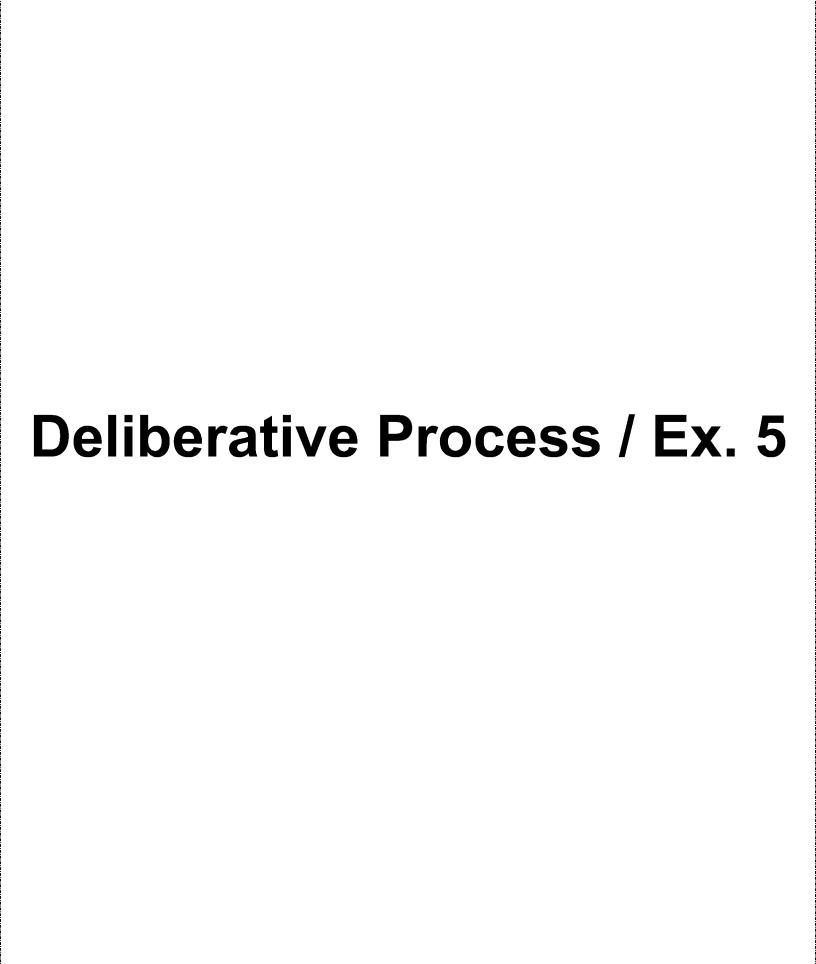


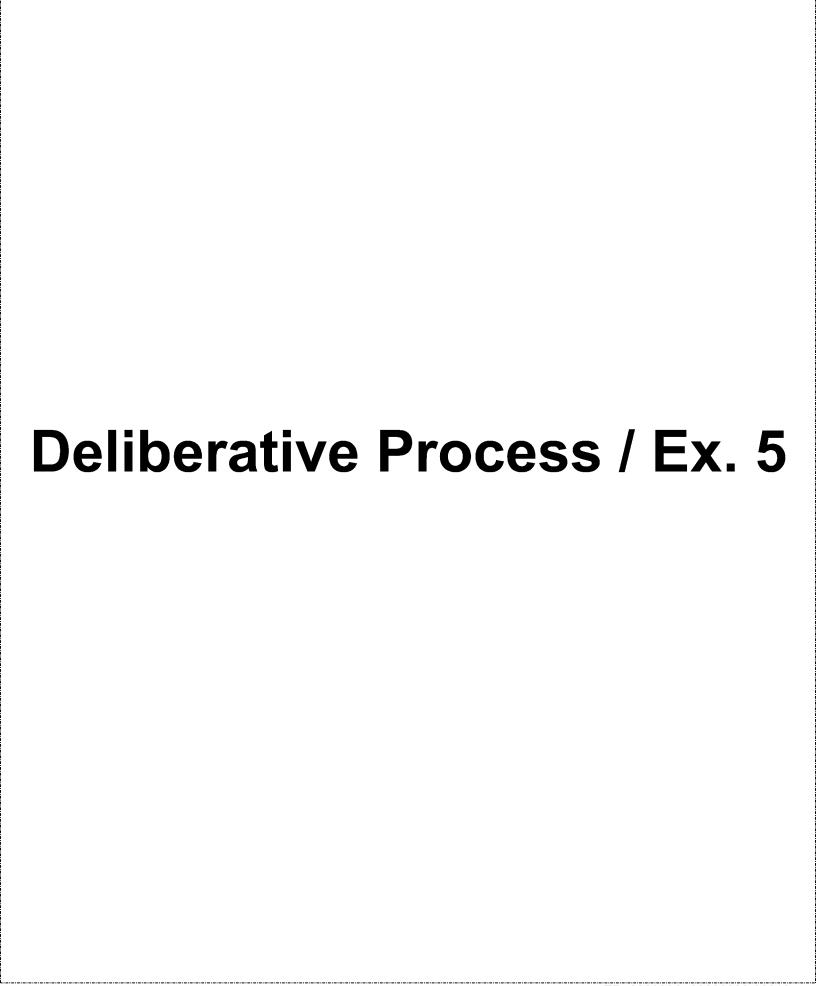


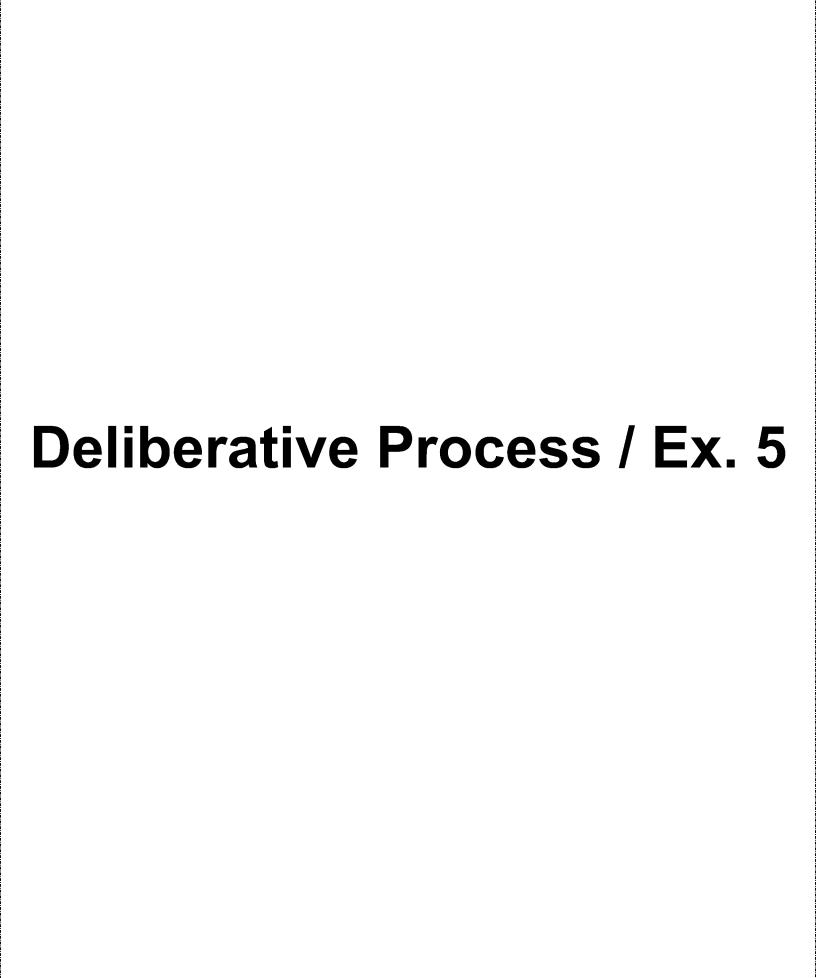


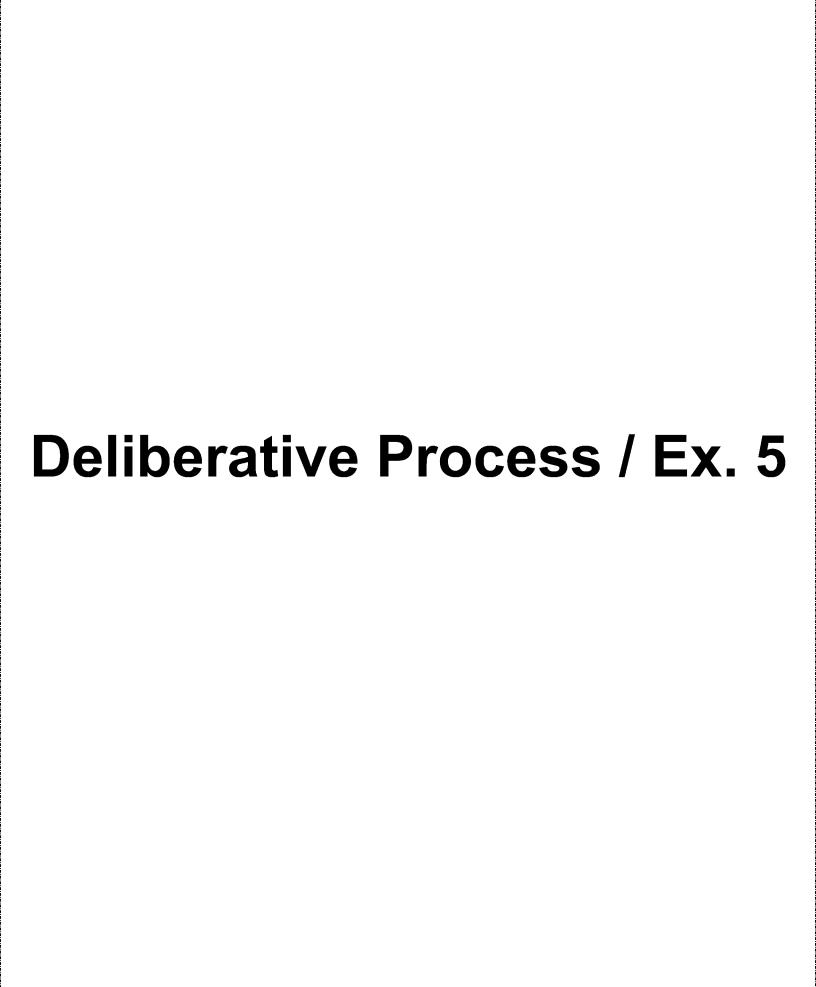


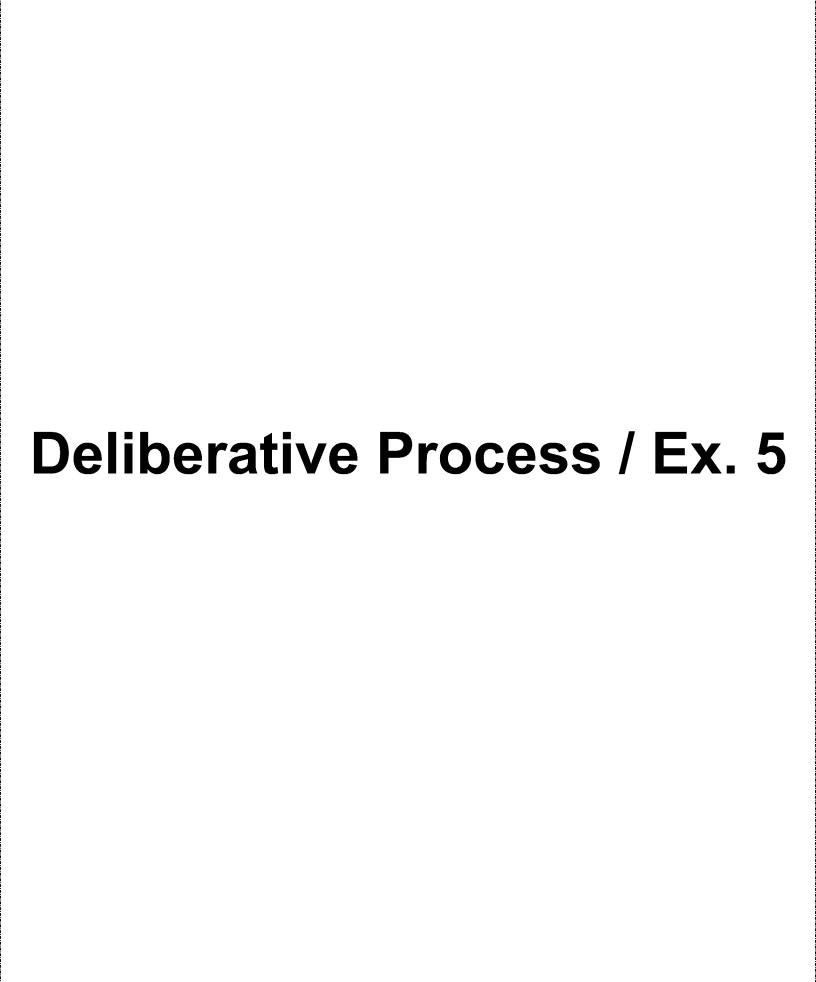


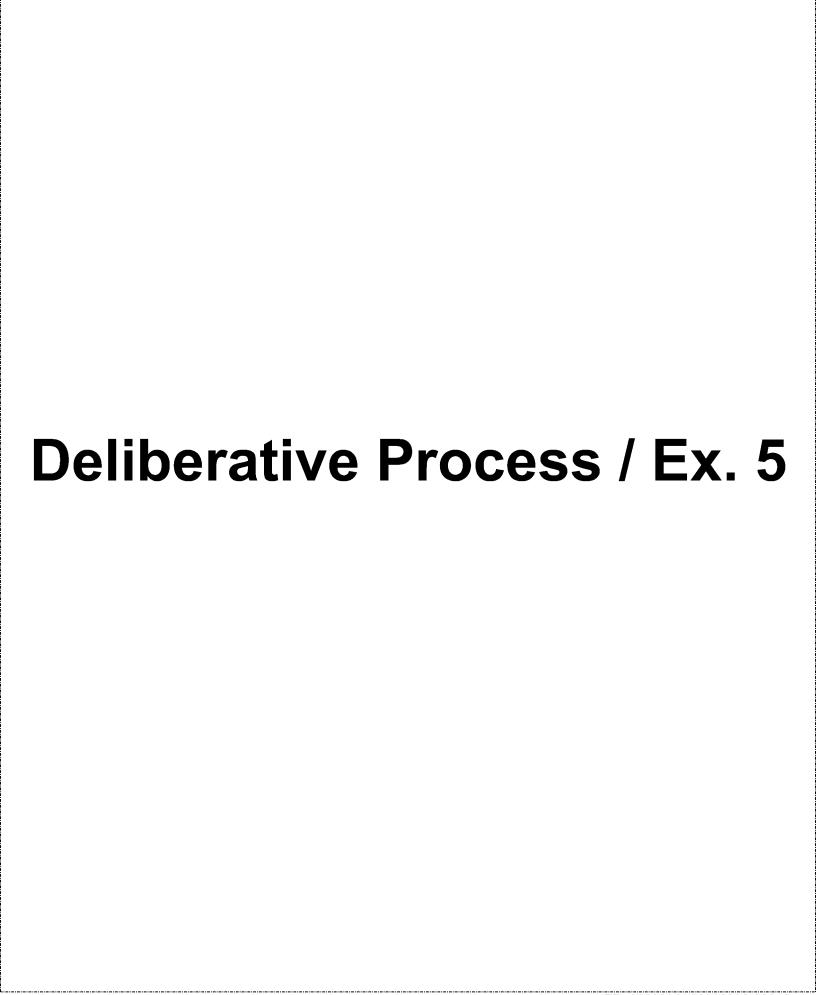


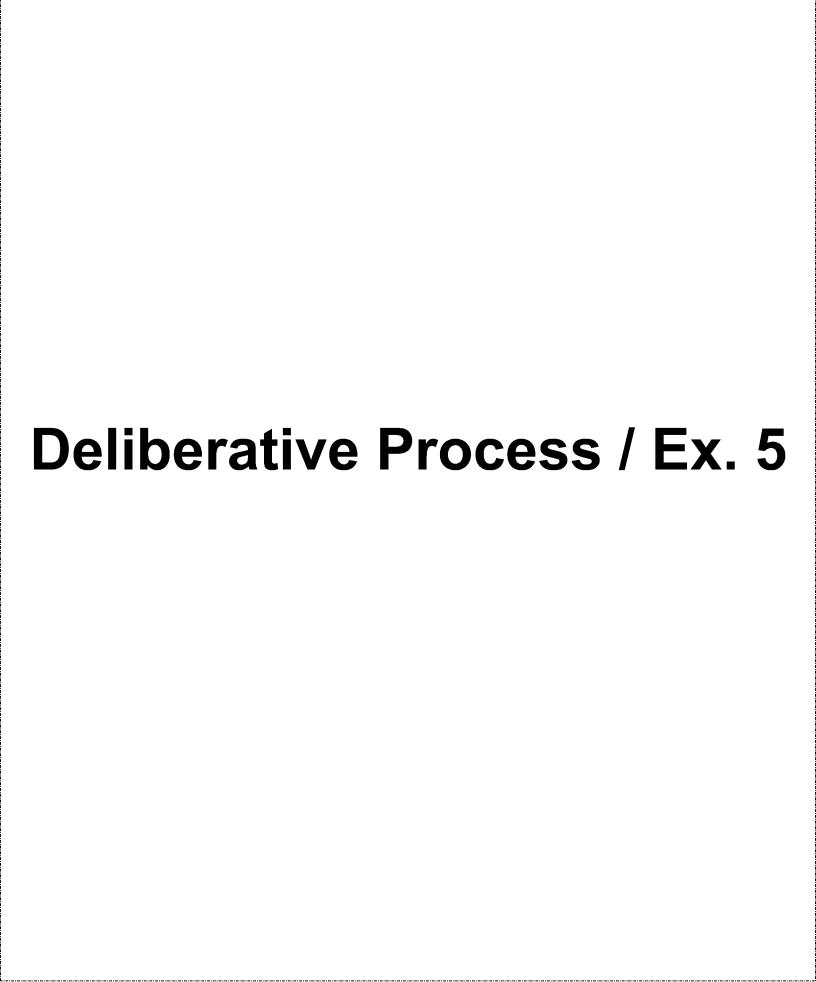


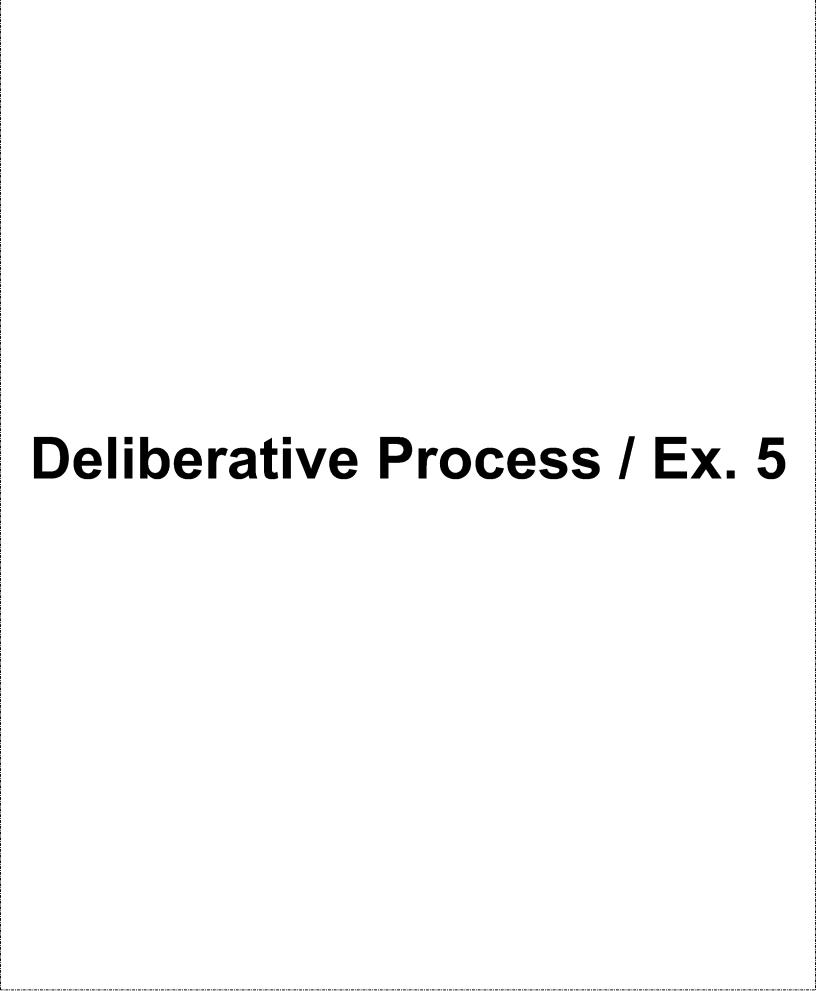


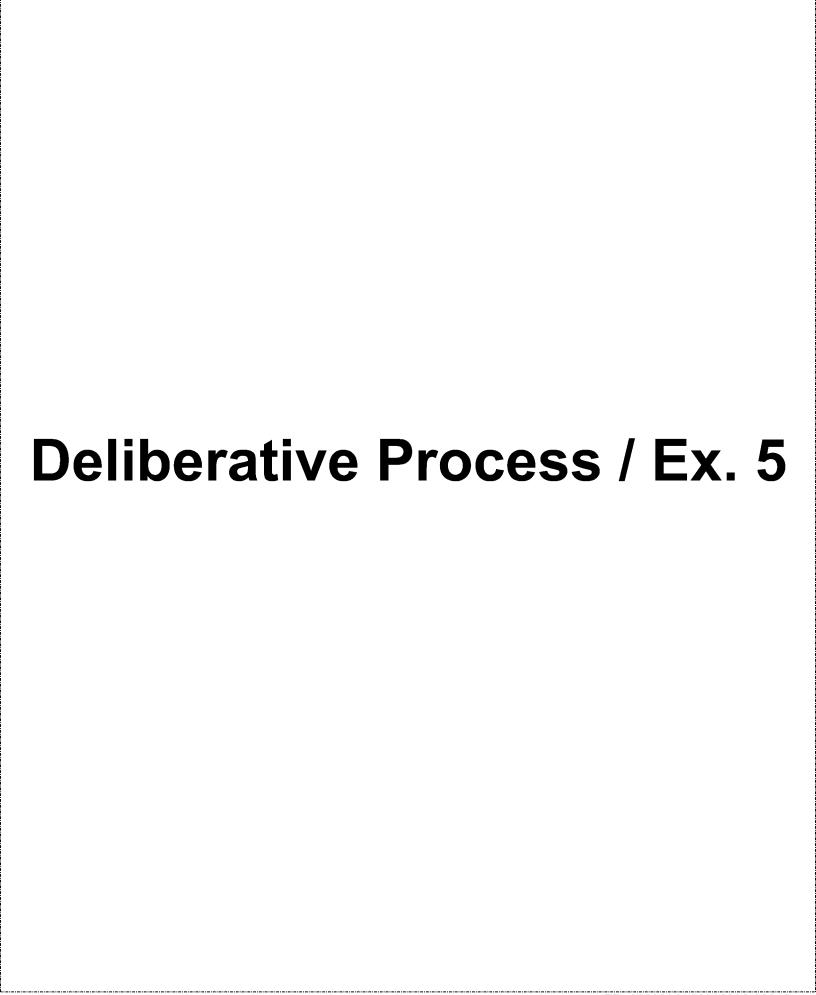


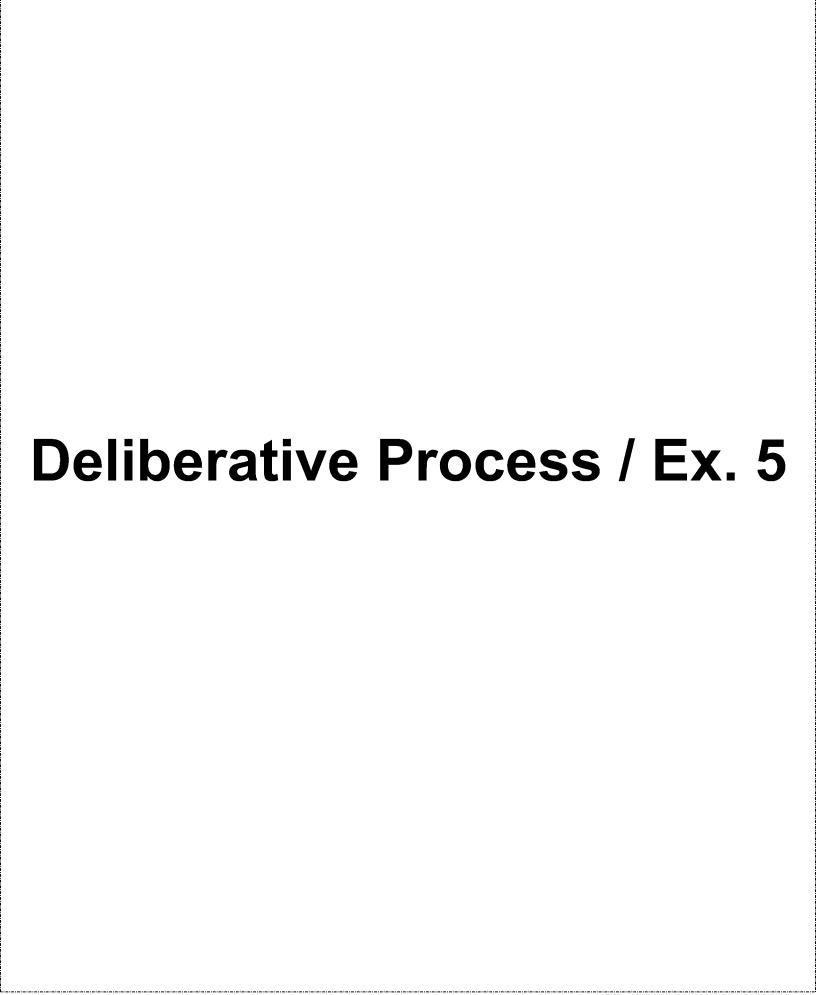


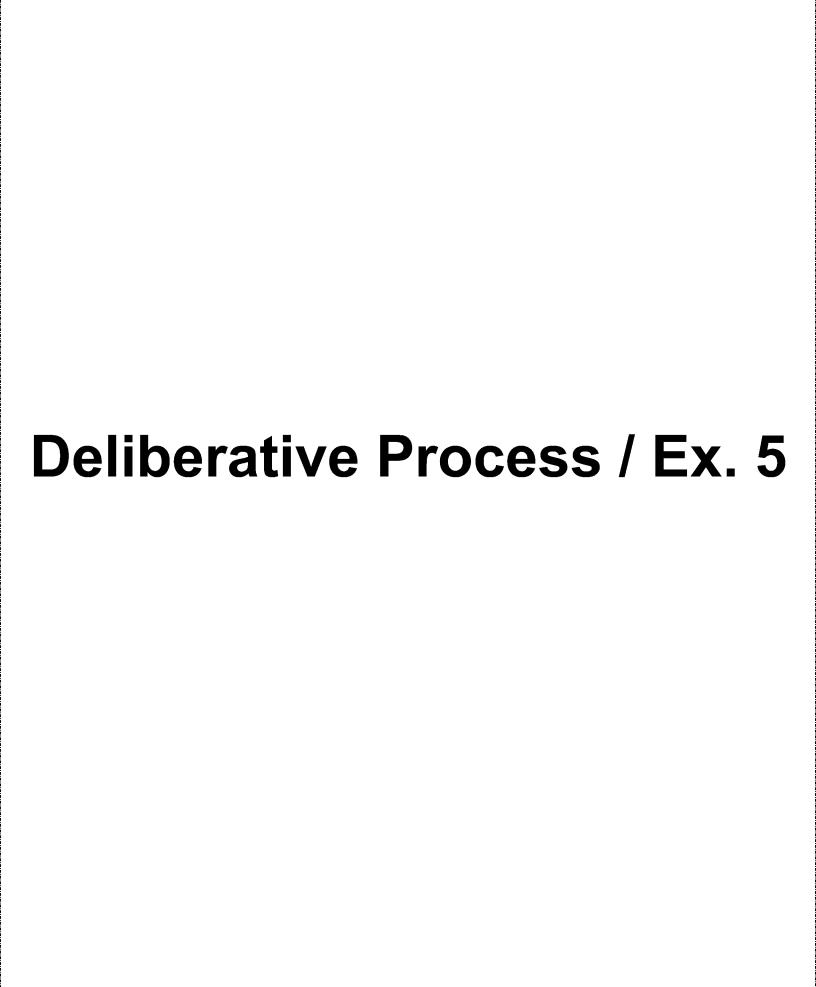


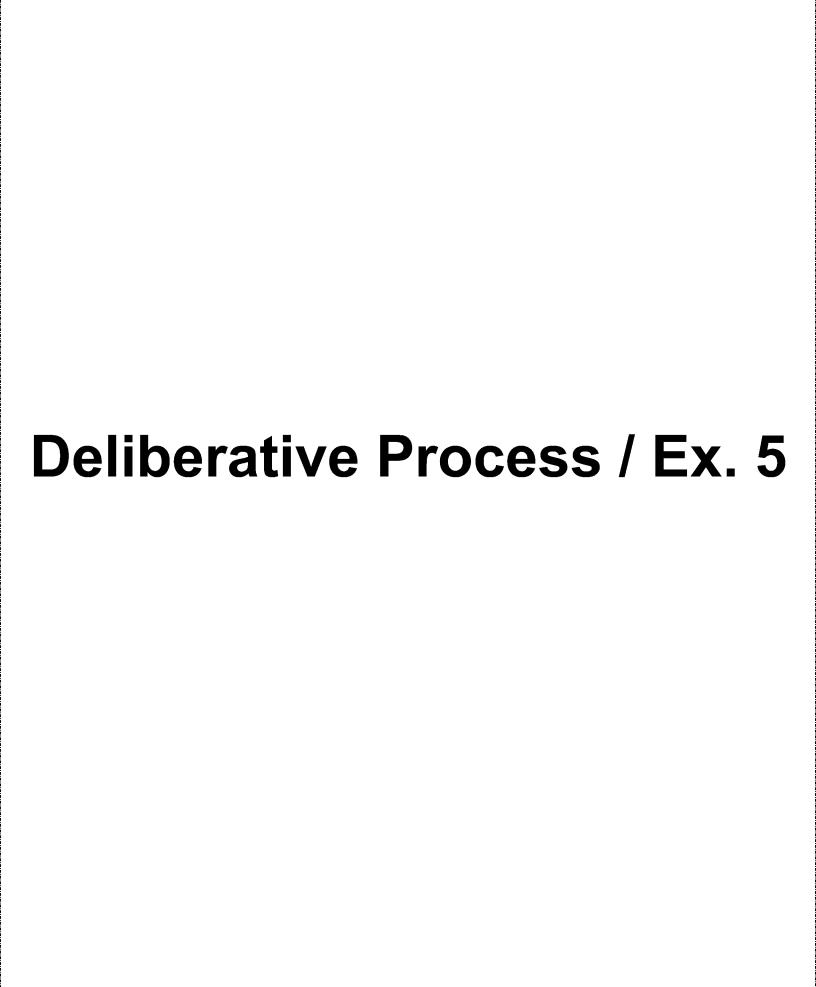


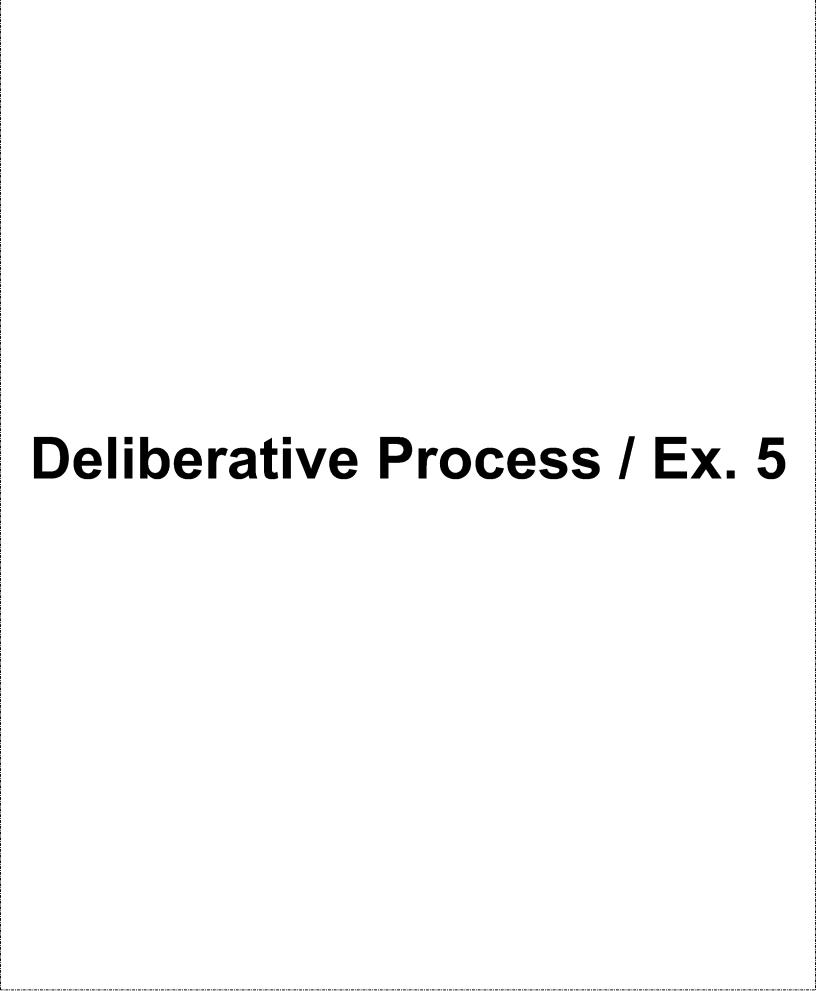


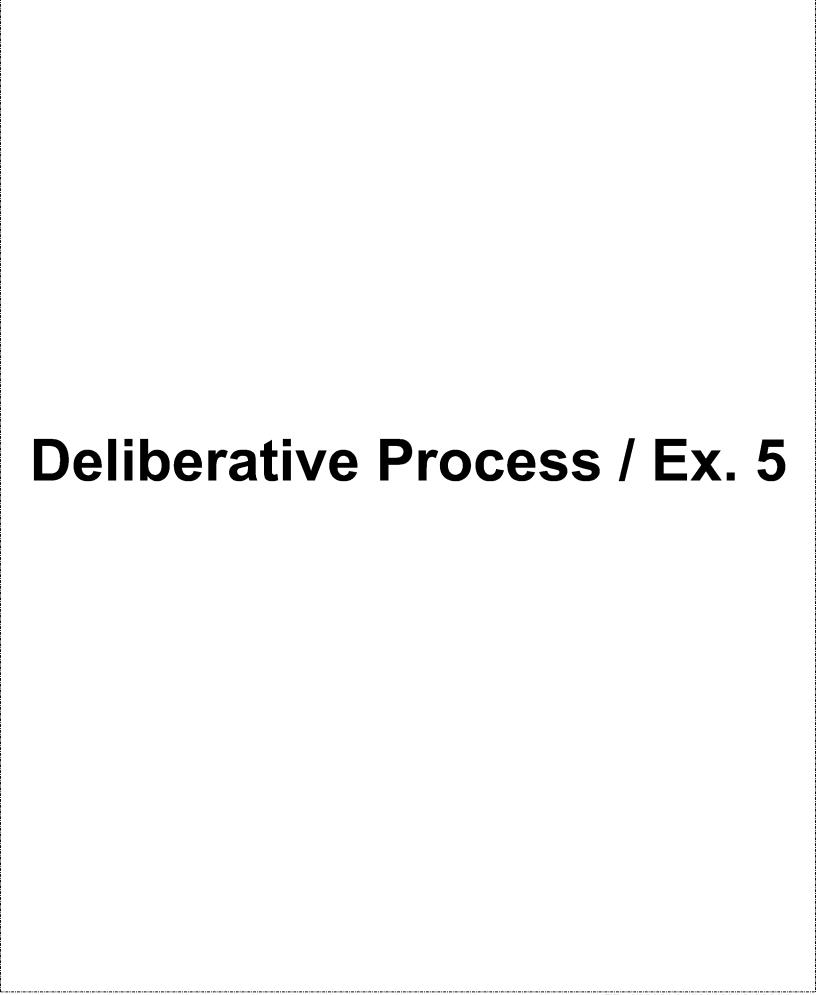


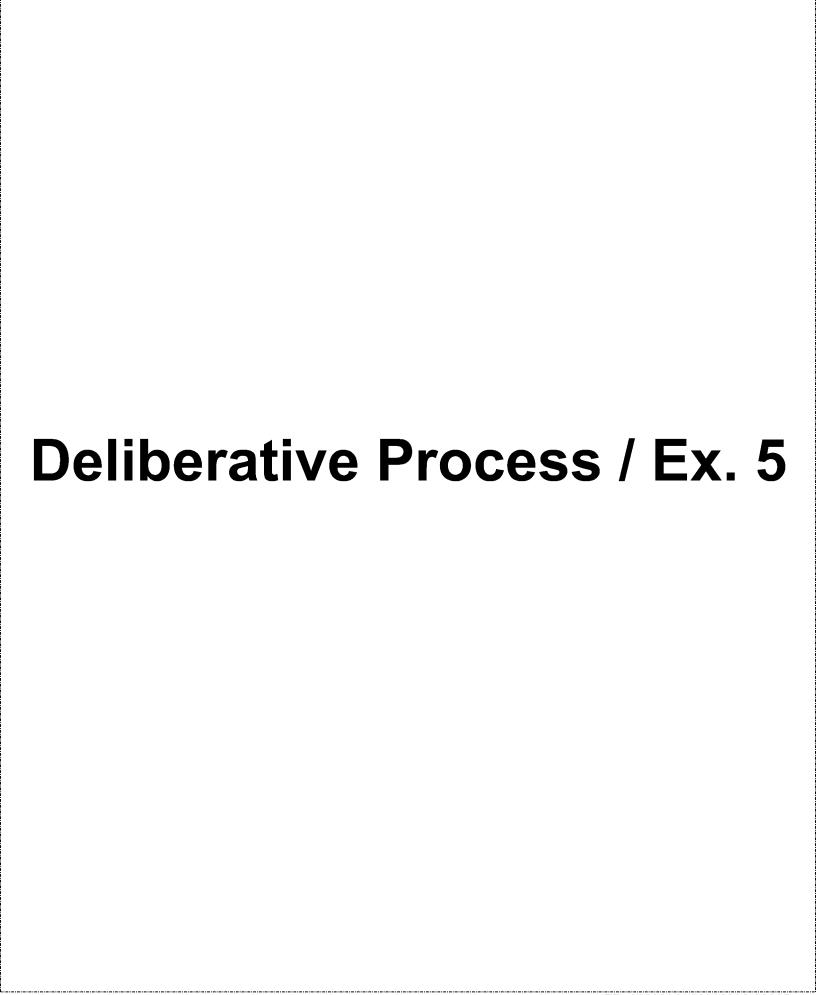


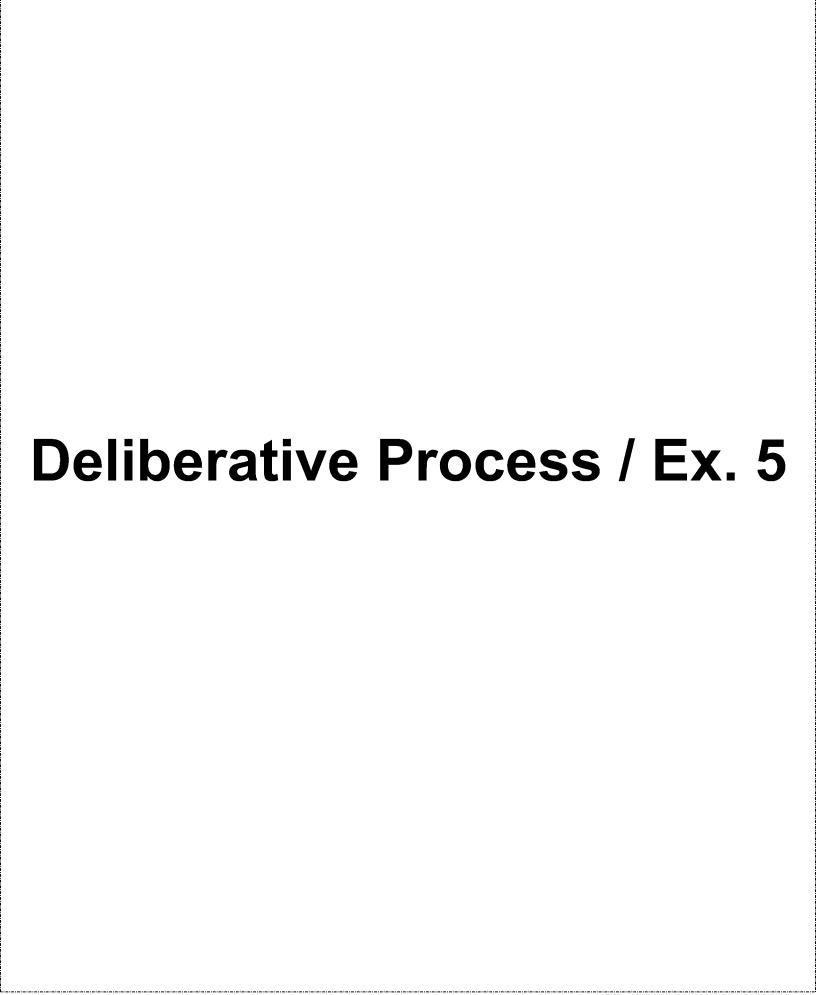


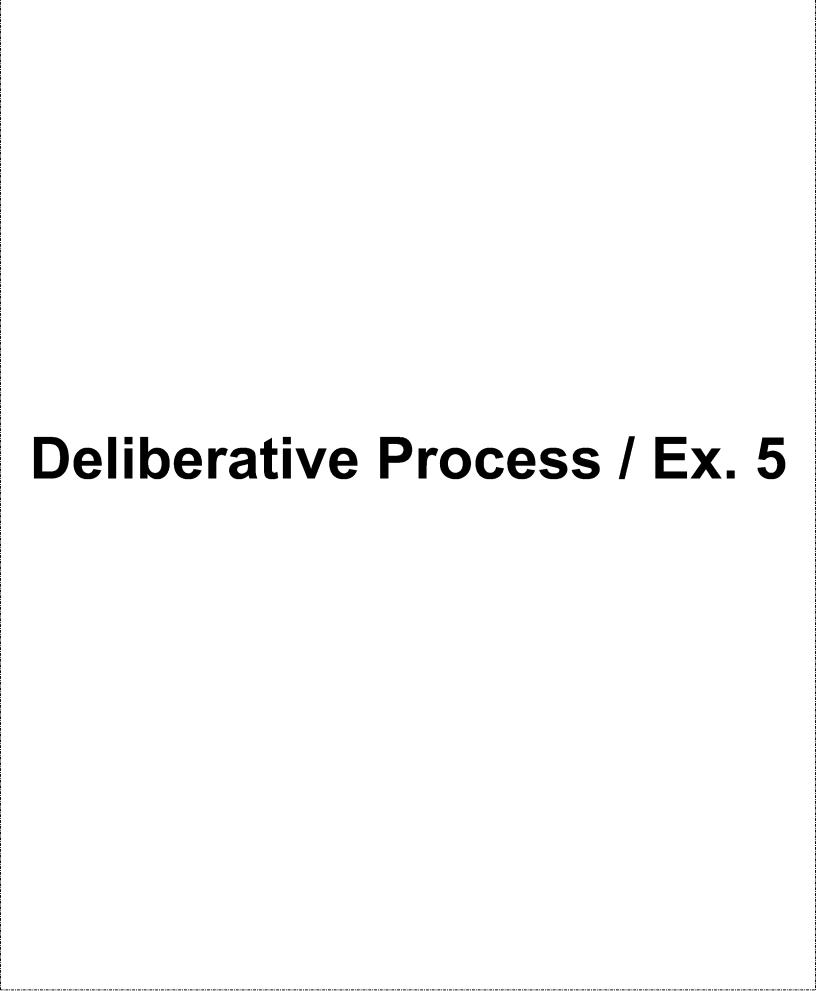


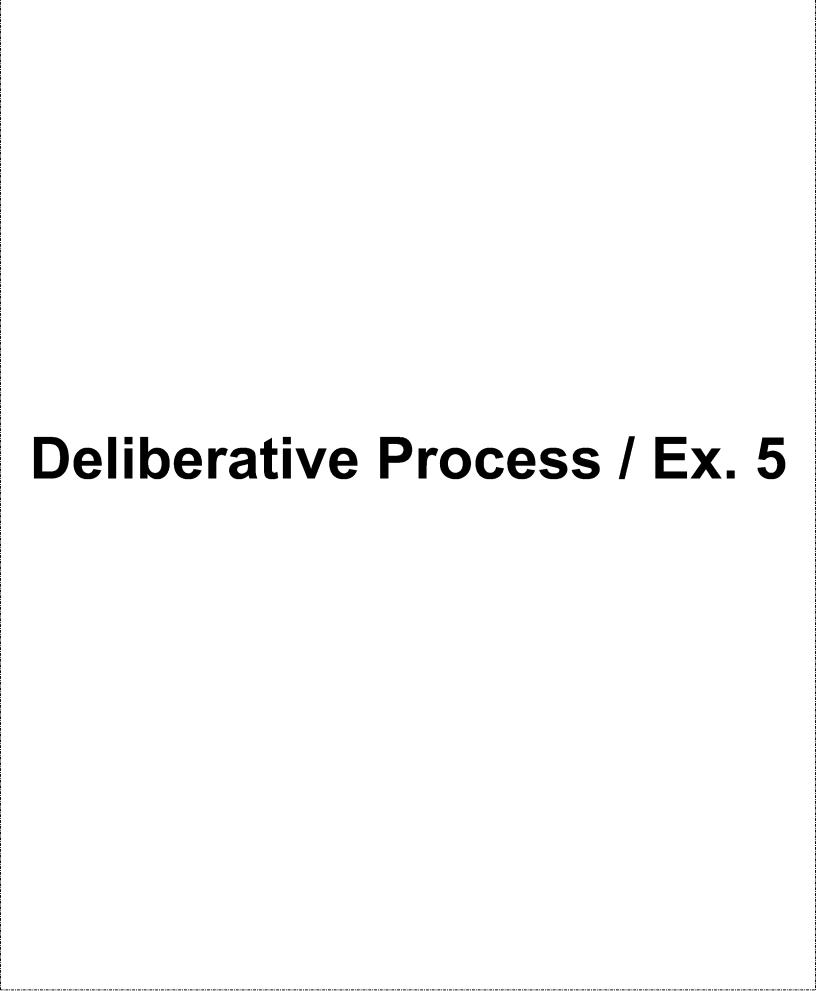


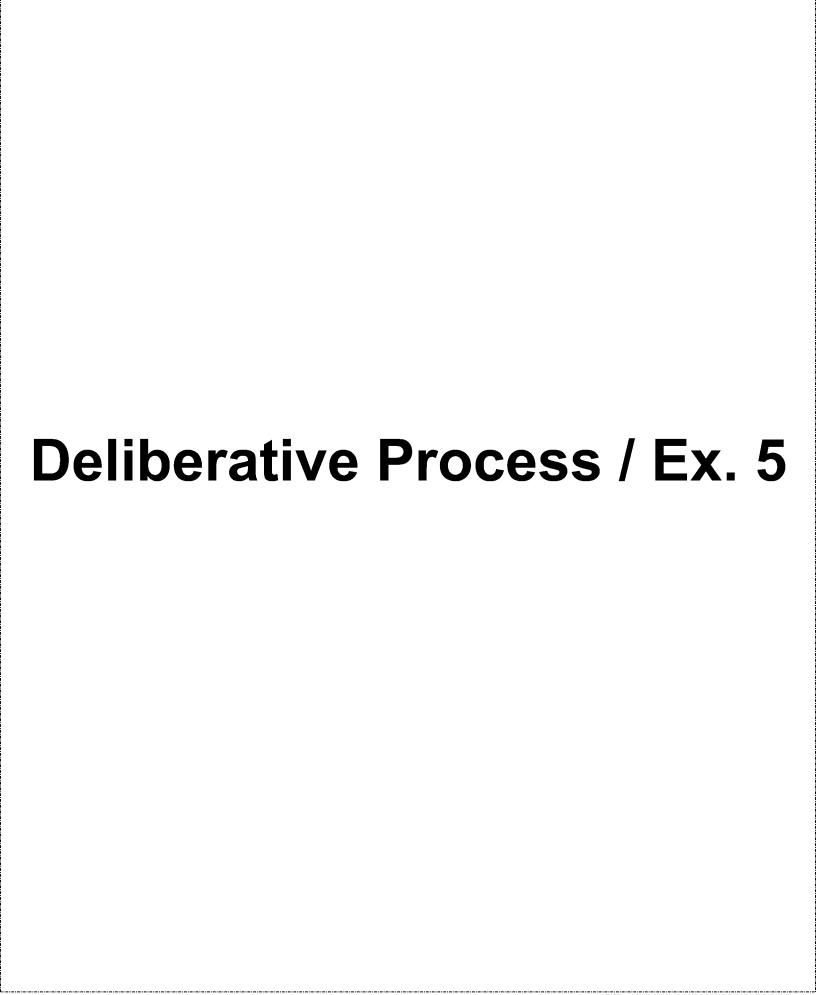


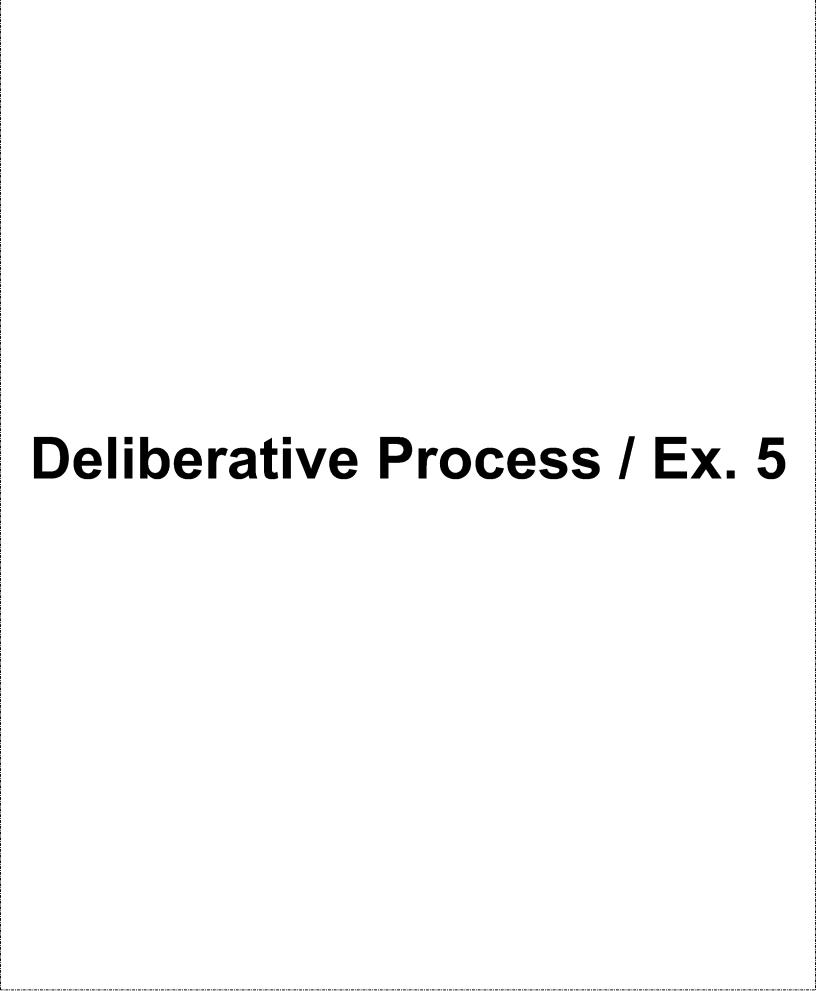


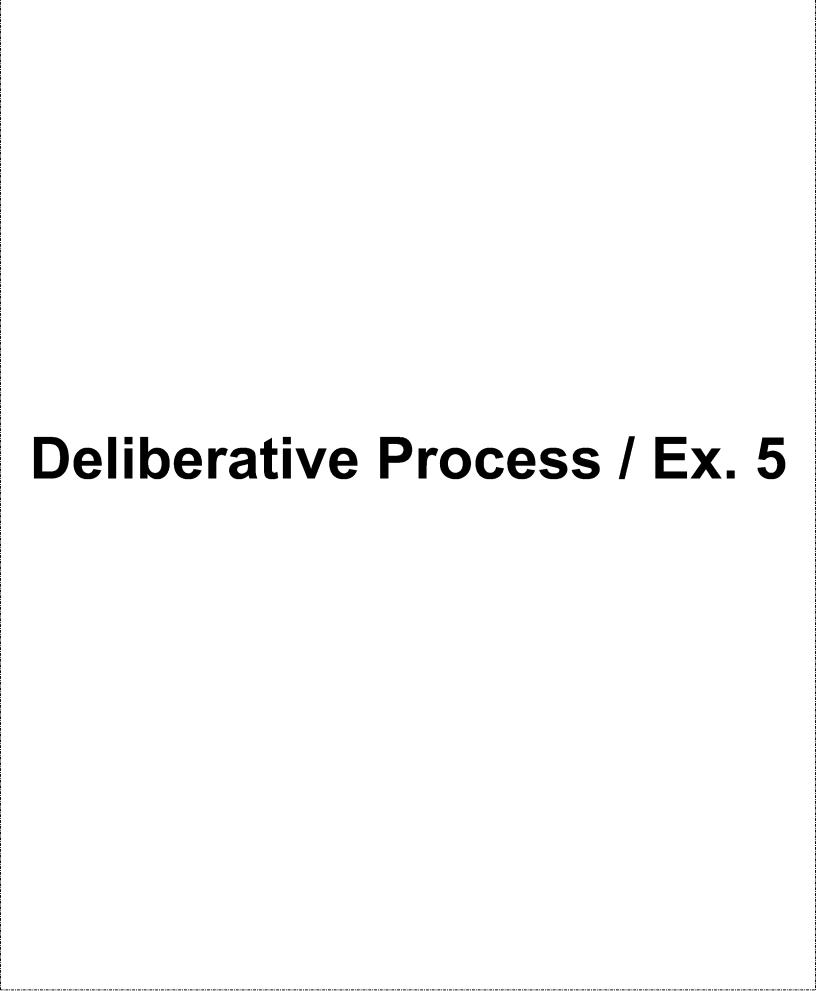


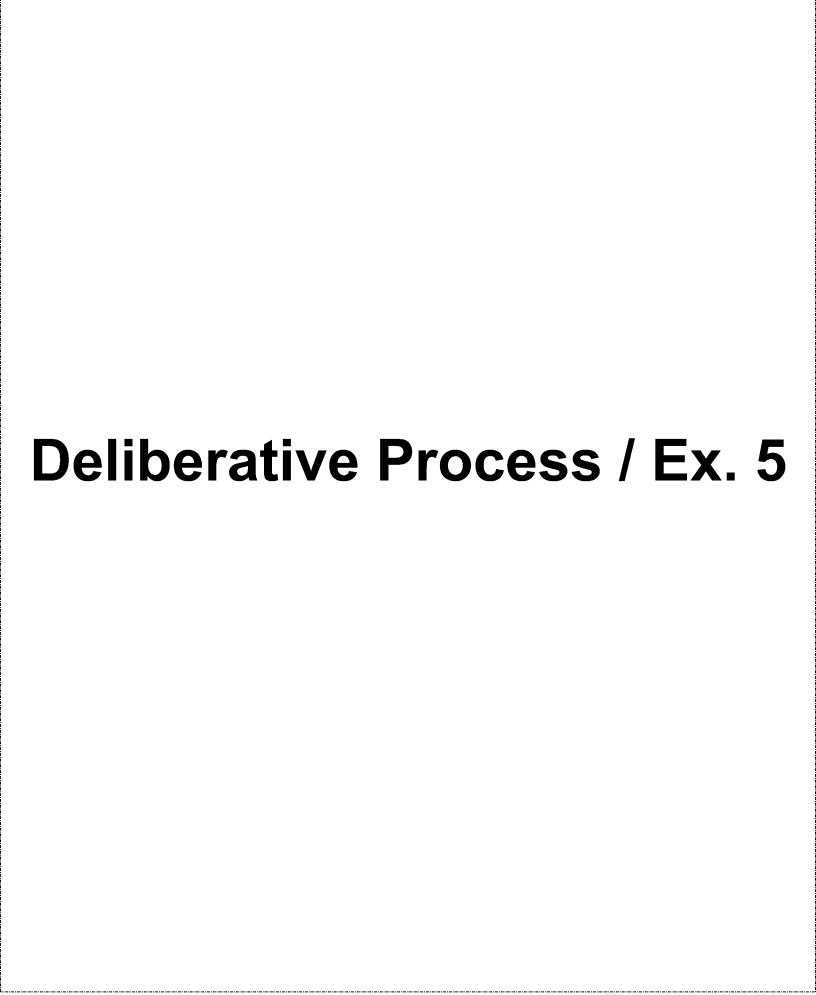


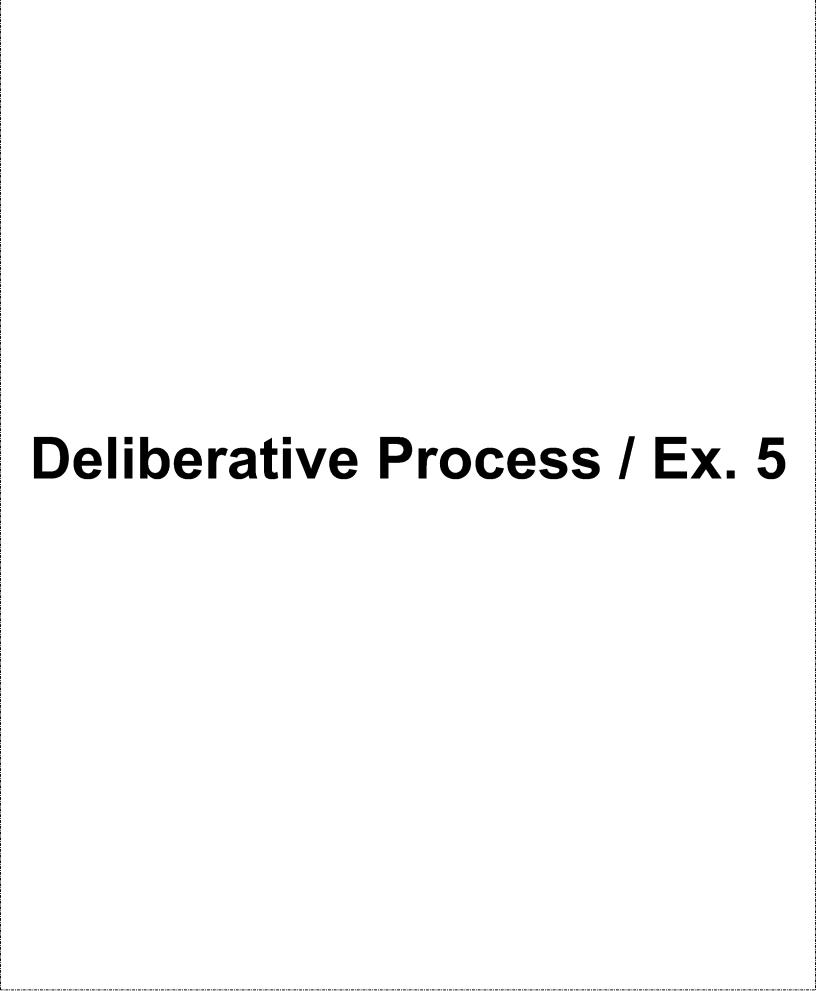


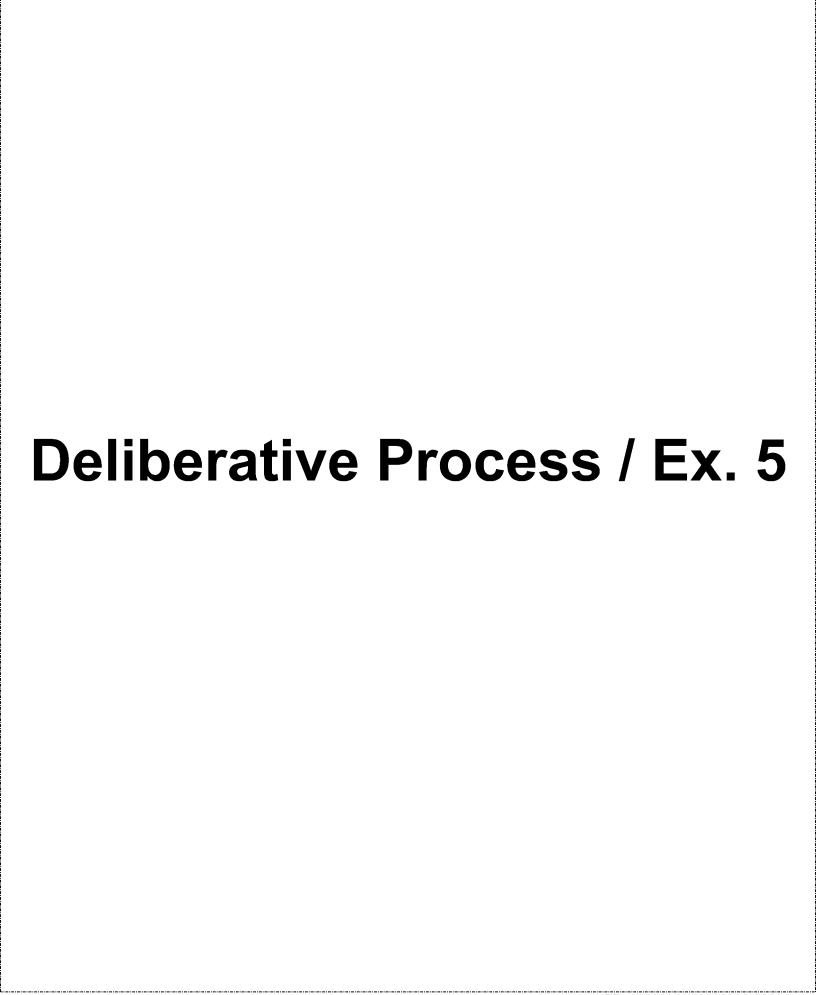


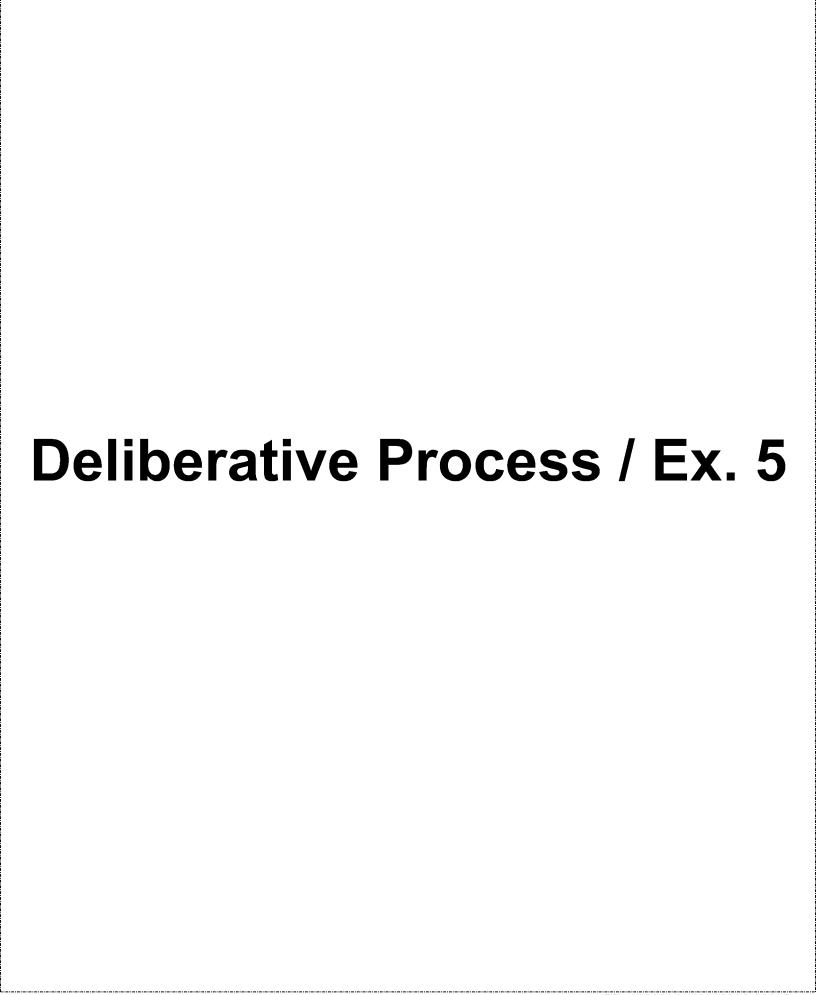


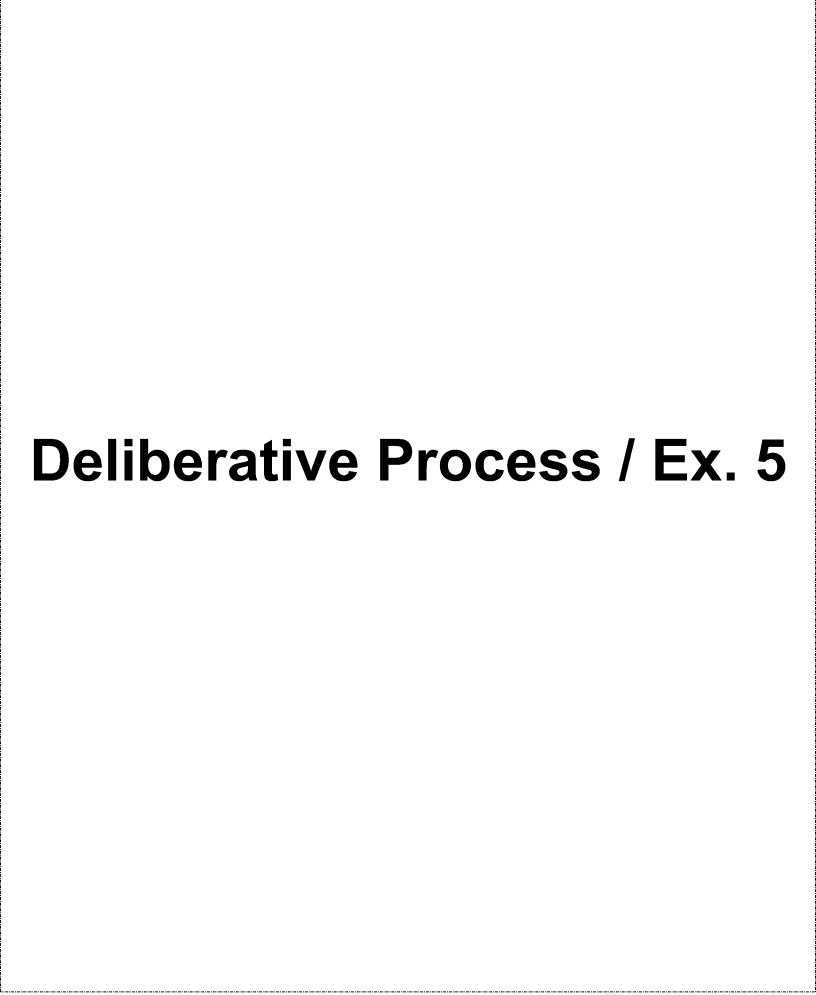












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D. Peer Review		

<u>Comment #50</u>: Several commenters indicated the peer review conducted for the EPA Report was inadequate because: EPA did not follow its own peer review guidance; that the EPA Report was classified as "influential" by Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and required more extensive

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review; EPA's selection of peer reviewers was not transparent and all four peer reviewers were from federal agencies; with the exception of one reviewer the comments received were brief and not adequately rigorous; and one peer reviewer stated that the nitrate in many of the wells is most likely from a mix of sources which would be challenging to tease apart, probably requiring a much more extensive sampling campaign and more knowledge of well depth and screen lengths.

<u>EPA's response</u>: The EPA Report did not require formal peer review according to the Agency's peer review guidelines because the EPA Report was classified as "Other" using the OMB work product classification criteria. Although EPA determined that a formal peer review was not required, it decided to conduct an independent third party review. EPA asked scientists from USGS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, EPA's ORD, and EPA Region 10 to review the document. EPA considered the comments on the draft EPA Report and revised the EPA Report in response to the comments. The independent review process helped EPA solidify its conclusions and clarify the limitations and uncertainties of the study.

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